GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:823
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter Governmental Panel on climate change has expressed its serious concern on climate change and its impact on agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of higher temperature on agriculture and the extent to which crop yield is expected to be reduced;

(d) whether any separate study has been conducted/ proposed to be conducted to assess the impact of climate change on agriculture sector in the coastal region and the North-Eastern States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to mitigate the impact of climate change on agricultural sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): The assessment of intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Synthesis Report (Climate Change 2007) has indicated about possible impacts of climate change due to changes in extreme weather and climate events, based on projections to the mid-to late 21st century.

The impact of climate change on agriculture sector indicated in the Synthesis Report is annexed.

(d) & (e): Systematic studies on climate change and its impact on Indian agriculture are relatively few and of recent origin. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, has launched a `National Net-work Project on Climate Change (NNPCC)` during X Five Year Plan with the objective to study the impact of climate change on agriculture systems including livestock, fisheries, horticulture and forestry at 16 locations spread across the country. During the XI Plan, ICAR has included two centres from North Eastern Hill Region which are at ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Region, Shillong and Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat under NNPCC.

As per studies conducted so far by ICAR, there is no definite and conclusive evidence of the impacts of climate change on agriculture production in the country. Nevertheless, preliminary studies conducted under Network Project on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change indicates that increase in temperature and change in precipitation pattern could significantly impact agriculture production in the country in future. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has intensified the programmes being implemented under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a view to increase the productivity of agricultural land and also to address the various issues relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector.